to the Jammu & Kashmir Cadre. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-171/98] for (1) to (12)

III. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Economic Survey, for the year 1997-98. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-200/98]

I. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar and related papers.

II. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi and related papers.

III. Report and Accounts (1996-97) of National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, Gurgaon and related papers.

IV. Notification of Ministry of Agriculture.

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूं:

(1) कंपनी अधिनियम, 1956 की धारा 619क की उपधारा (1) के अधीन निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में):—

I. (क) 1996-97 के वर्ष के लिए गुजरात स्टेट सीड्स कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, गांधीनगर का इक्कीसवां वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन, और लेखे, लेखाओं पर लेखापरीक्षकों के प्रतिवेदन और उस पर भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक की टिप्पणियों सहित।

(ख) उपर्युक्त कारपोरेशन के कार्यकरण की सरकार द्वारा समीक्षा।

[पुस्तकालय में रखी गयी देखिये सं० एस०टी०-166/98]

II. (क) 1996-97 के वर्ष के लिए स्टेट फार्म्स कारपोरेशन आॅफ इण्डिया लिमिटेड, नई दिल्ली का अठठाईसवां वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन, और लेखे, लेखाओं पर लेखापरीक्षकों के प्रतिवेदन और उस पर भारत के नियंत्रक महालेखापरीक्षक की टिप्पणियों सहित।

(ख) उपर्युक्त कारपोरेशन के कार्यकरण की सरकार द्वारा समीक्षा।

(2) ऊपर (1) में उल्लिखित पत्रों को सभा पटल पर रखने में हुए विलंब के कारणों को दर्शाने वाले विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में)।

[पुस्तकालय में रखी गयी देखिये सं० एस०टी०-165/98]

III. (1) राष्ट्रीय तिलहन और वनस्पति तेल विकास बोर्ड अधिनियम, 1983 की धारा 14 की उपधारा (4) और धारा 16 की उपधारा (4) के अधीन निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में):—

(i) 1996-97 के वर्ष के लिए राष्ट्रीय तिलहन और वनस्पति तेल विकास बोर्ड, गुड़गांव, हरियाणा का तेरहवां वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन, और लेखे, लेखाओं पर लेखापरीक्षकों के प्रतिवेदन सहित।

(ii) उपर्युक्त बोर्ड के कार्यकरण की सरकार द्वारा समीक्षा।

(2) ऊपर (1) में उल्लिखित पत्रों को सभा पटल पर रखने में हुए विलंब के कारणों को दर्शाने वाला विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में)।

[पुस्तकालय में रखी गयी देखिये सं० एस०टी०-169/98]

IV. बहु-राज्य सहकारी सोसाइटी अधिनियम, 1984 की धारा 109 की उपधारा (3) के अधीन बहुराज्य सहकारी सोसाइटी (विशेषाधिकार, संपत्ति और निधियां, लेखा, लेखा-परीक्षा, परिसमापन, डिक्रियों, आदेशों और विनिश्चयों का निष्पादन) (संशोधन) नियम, 1998 को प्रकाशित करने वाली कृषि मंत्रालय (कृषि एवं सहकारिता विभाग) की अधिसूचना सा०का०नि० 75 (अ) दिनांक 11 फरवरी, 1998 की एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में)

[पुस्तकालय में रखी गयी देखिये सं० एस०टी०-365/98]

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the Members that I have received a letter from Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari, a Member representing the State of Rajasthan, resigning his seat in the Rajya Sabha. I have accepted his resignation with effect from 26th Arpil, 1998.

STATEMENTS REGARDING ORDINANCES

(i) Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998.

(ii) Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998.

श्रम मंत्री (डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया): मैं उन परिस्थितियों को स्पष्ट करने वाले दो विवरण (अंग्रेजी

तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूं जिनके कारण निम्नलिखित अध्यादेशों द्वारा तत्काल विधान बनाए जान की आवश्यकता पड़ी:—

(i) कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि और प्रकीर्ण उपबंध (संशोधन) अध्यादेश 1998.

(ii) उपदान संदाय (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, 1998।

[पुस्तकालय में रखी गयी। देखिये सं० एल स०टी०-350 / 98]

STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION ON RECENT NUCLEAR TESTS IN POKHRAN

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Sir, I rise to inform the House of momentous developments that have taken place while we were in recess. On 11 May, India successfully carried out three underground nuclear tests. Two more underground tests on 13 May completed the planned series of tests. I would like this House to join me in paying fulsome tribute to our scientists, engineers and defence personnel whose singular achievements have given us a renewed sense of national pride and self-confidence. Sir, in addition to the statement I make, I have also taken the opportunity to submit to the House a paper entitled "Evolution of India's Nuclear Policy."

In 1947, when India emerged as a free country to take its rightful place in the comity of nations, the nuclear age had already dawned. Our leaders then took the crucial decision to opt for self-reliance, and freedom of thought and action. We rejected the Cold War paradigm and chose the more difficult path of non-alignment. Our leaders also realised that a nuclear-weapon-free-world would enhance not only India's security but also the security of all nations. That is why disarmament was and continues to be a major plank in our foreign policy.

During the 50's, India took the lead in calling for an end to all nuclear weapon testing. Addressing the Lok Sabha on 2 April, 1954, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, to whose memory we paid homage yesterday stated "nuclear, chemical and biological energy and power should not be used to forge weapons of mass destruction". He called for negotiations for prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and in the interim, a standstill agreement to halt nuclear testing. This call was not heeded.

In 1965, along with a small group of non-aligned countries, India put forward the idea of an international non-proliferation agreement under which the nuclear weapon states would agree to give up their arsenals provided other countries refrained from developing or acquiring such weapons. This balance of rights and obligations was not accepted. In the 60's our security concerns deepened. The country sought security guarantees but the countries we turned to were unable to extend to us the expected assurances. As a result, we made it clear that we would not be able to sign the NPT.

The Lok Sabha debated the issue on 5 April, 1968. Prime Minister late Smt. Indira Gandhi assured the House that "we shall be guided entirely by our self-enlightenment and the considerations of national security." This was a turning point and this House strengthened the decision of the then Government by reflecting a national consensus.

Our decision not to sign the NPT was in keeping with our basic objectives. In 1974, we demonstrated our nuclear capability. Successive Governments thereafter have taken all necessary steps in keeping with that resolve and national will, to safeguard India's nuclear option. This was the primary reason behind the 1996 decision for not signing the CTBT, a decision that also enjoyed consensus of this House.

The decades of the 80's and 90's had meanwhile witnessed the gradual deterioration of our security environment as a result of nuclear and missile proliferation. In our neighbourhood, nuclear weapons had increased and more sophisticated delivery systems inducted. In addition,